VIII.—*An Account of Roman Remains found at Duston in Northamptonshire.*
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amptonshire.

Read February 17th, 1870.

IN the county of Northampton there are many sites which afford evidence of occupation by the Romans, either for military or domestic purposes.

Not only have we in the eastern extremity of the county, at Castor and in the neighbourhood, the remains of the city and great pottery works of *Durobrivæ*, with, in Huntingdonshire, the nearly-adjacent camp of Chesterton, and in the western portion of the county, near Daventry, the famous military station of Burrow Hill; but, besides these, along the valley of the Nen River and further westward, minor military stations are to be traced, which, occurring at short intervals, represent (as it has been suggested^a) a line of frontier and of military defence which was established by Ostorius Scapula, the Roman general in Britain under Claudius, and which extended from the Wash (*Metaris Æstuarium*) to the Bristol Channel.

This line commenced at Chesterton (close to and overlooking the great, and at that time almost impassable, Fens of Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire stretching to the sea), and was continued inland by camps at Thrapstone, Cotton near Ringstead, Irchester, Cogenhoe, Danes' Camp near Northampton, the large camp at Castle Dykes near Weedon, Arberry Hill, the so-well-known Burrow Hill, to Lilbourne on the Avon, and thence by the lines of the Avon and the Severn to the western sea; some outposts lying north of the line through Northamptonshire, such as those at the Haddons, Guilsborough, and other places.

Besides these military stations, remains of a domestic character and of a subsequent and settled period of the Roman occupation are dispersed over the county. At King's Cliffe, at Bulwick, and in the neighbourhood of Rockingham (on part of the site of the ancient and probably primeval Rockingham Forest) are to be found the remains of iron-smelting works—the charcoal, the calcined material, the ashes, the slag—associated frequently with Roman money.

Again at Brixworth, in the perhaps oldest Saxon church in England (built, it is said, on the site of a Roman basilica, some part of the existing structure having

^a See Lecture by the Rev. J. N. Simpkison, delivered at Northampton in March 1862.

been probably Roman work), a large number of Roman bricks, which had been gathered from a Roman house hard by (traces of which remain), are prominently noticeable in the masonry, having been thus utilized by the Saxon builders; and a Roman eagle, about 9 inches in height, carved, as I believe, in Weldon stone, may be seen in an inverted position built into the Saxon wall.

And “ever and anon,” in unexpected places, Roman remains turn up unsought. Thus, in 1859, upon the Earl of Westmoreland’s estate at Apethorpe, in some agricultural operation, was found a Roman flue tile, which led to the discovery of an apparently isolated but important villa, covering an area 240 feet by 230 feet, and containing several fine tessellated pavements, three hypocausts, baths, and other elaborate appointments. A full description of this house was written at the time by your local secretary for Lincolnshire, the Ven. Archdeacon Trollope, F.S.A.^a

I might give a long list of places in this district in which Roman remains have from time to time been found, but I will content myself with saying—that at Harpole, a few years ago, a Roman villa, of less pretension than that at Apethorpe, was discovered by the Rev. R. B. Dundas; that at Dallington in 1862 I disinterred a buried refuse heap, containing fragments of more than 200 earthen vessels, chiefly of very coarse but a few of finer Roman ware, clay (burnt and unburnt), ashes, and other materials, affording evidence that here had been a small pottery for local use; and lastly, that in Northampton pottery and other other articles of Roman manufacture are frequently found.

Harpole, Dallington, and Northampton adjoin severally on the west, the north, and the east, while Danes’ Camp (one of the line of military posts) occupies the high ground to the south, of the parish of Duston, in which is situated the particular area whence have been obtained the remarkable collection of Roman objects which I have the pleasure of exhibiting this evening, and which, as well as certain particulars attaching to the site itself, I will endeavour to describe.

It is remarkable that, although in Roman times Northamptonshire was probably the great iron-producing district of the country (the iron ore lying immediately beneath and wood for charcoal necessary for smelting growing abundantly upon the surface), yet the value of this ore should have been lost sight of, and the ore itself have remained unknown and unutilized, until its re-discovery about twenty years ago. This long neglect is rendered the more startling by the fact that iron has since become a staple product of the district, so much as 150,000 to 200,000 tons being the amount of the present annual yield.

^a See *Transactions of the Associated Architectural, &c. Societies*, v. 97.

And this revival of the manufacture of iron from the Northamptonshire beds has much to do with my subject, because it was the digging of ironstone which led to the discovery of these Roman remains.

Some ten or twelve years ago an ironstone quarry was opened on the estate then of Lady Palmerston, now of the Earl Cowper, K.G., at Duston. Some time afterwards a Roman coin was brought to me, found at this place—by and bye another and another. I thought little of the circumstance at the time, Roman coins being producible from almost any ploughed field in Northamptonshire; but when, after a further interval, I was shown some fragments of Castor and Samian ware, some very perfect *denarii* of Septimius Severus and Julia Domna, and several articles of bronze, also from Duston, I went to the spot, and found the surface of the infilled ground strewn with broken vessels obtained from the excavated soil, and other fragments and human bones projecting from the soil portion of the face of the quarry cliff.

From that time up to a recent date (when unfortunately a stop was put to my collecting them) I have been accumulating such objects as have come to my hands; and I would here acknowledge the interest which the intelligent overlooker of the works, Mr. Eldret, has manifested in the search for and preservation of these relics, and his kindness in handing them over to me; thus enabling me to preserve them, to perpetuate their identity with this particular locality (to the advantage of antiquarian science), and to exhibit them and to give the history of their discovery to the Society of Antiquaries.

The portion of the excavated ground which has yielded Roman remains exceeds, I believe, 8 acres; and it is to be noted that in this large but as yet incomplete area no indications of domestic habitation—no *tesseræ*, no foundations of houses—have yet been discovered. On the other hand, evidences of sepulture by both modes—by cremation or urn-burial, and by the burial of the body entire—abound throughout the site; and the remains of very many skeletons, and indications of probably a larger number of burials by cremation, have been encountered in the process of “baring,” or removing the superficial soil preparatory to digging the ironstone. The “baring” (as it is called by the quarry men) consists not only of the natural surface soil but also of the upper soft bed of the ferruginous rock, which has been much disturbed and mixed up with the upper soil in Roman times, the two together having an irregular thickness, running up to 6 feet.

There remains very little doubt that here was a Roman cemetery, so extensive as to indicate the residence somewhere in the neighbourhood of a considerable population; but no traces of such a population, no remains of foundations, no

ground with broken surface marking the presence of ruins beneath are apparent anywhere near.

One particular circumstance, however, seems to imply that there must be such remains not very far off. As many as from 15 to 20 wells or cesspools have been found ; these are small in the barrel, but run down through the ferruginous rock to the water-bearing strata, a depth in some instances of 30 feet. These have all doubtless originally been used for obtaining water. They were probably sunk in succession, having, as they became choked or foul, been converted into cesspools, other wells being sunk a little way off, which in their turn were also so converted. Many of these wells or cesspools contain fragments of domestic vessels, bones and horns of deer and oxen, and bones and teeth of pigs, and probably of wild boars. Among the bovine remains are horns and skulls of *Bos Longifrons*, the small indigenous but now extinct ox.

I would suggest the following explanation of these apparently anomalous facts. Immediately south of this Duston site, and at a considerably lower level, is the broad valley through which flows the river Nen. The river is bordered by a bed of alluvial gravel, which of course would yield water ; but the surface of this bed in the Roman period would probably for a great part of the year be marshy and ineligible as a site for habitation. For the remaining width of the valley, however, and for a considerable way up the rise towards the cemetery, the substratum is the dense clay of the Upper Lias. This incline faces the south, and would form an eligible and pleasant site for residences or a Roman town but for the lack of water, which of course would be unobtainable from the underlying clay : an abundance of pure water, however, would be available near at hand (at the slightly higher level at the back) by means of the very wells, so many of which have been found ; and the habitations or town may therefore have been placed upon this incline.

It may be that from some cause all traces of such buildings or town have been swept away ; or perhaps they may yet be discovered concealed beneath the levelled soil or the ancient and unbroken turf.

I will say a few words in description of the different positions in which some of the vessels have been found in this Roman site, and of certain peculiar circumstances attending their deposit, and disclosed in their exhumation.

Many vessels, without doubt devoted to cinerary uses, were deposited singly at no great depth in the surface soil, and perhaps represent burials by cremation of individuals not very high up in the social scale. Such vessels have almost invariably been found in fragments.

During the last year three large vessels of a coarse common ware were exposed in the "baring." They had apparently been placed symmetrically in a line, rather low down in the soil. I did not see these vessels nor their contents. Unfortunately, it was necessary to remove the soil in which they were imbedded at once, and, upon being disturbed, they fell to pieces, and the fragments, not having been deemed of any value by the workmen, were wheeled away and buried with the infilling. I have described the facts upon Mr. Eldred's report.

The more perfect vessels, and those of better quality, probably were connected with the more important burials by cremation; in which burials there seems to have been some sort of uniform plan or fashion. Not unfrequently, at the bottom of the "baring," in the first floor, as it were, of the rock, have been found shallow dish-shaped depressions of considerable diameter: these have contained ashes and vessels occasionally perfect, and of the better kind.

I have an impression that these ashes are the remains, and that these hollows are the sites, of funeral piles, and that such were in use only for the rites of the more important dead.

Among other objects which have been found are many large nails, some with wood still attached. Whether these nails were used in wooden sarcophagi or coffins, or in the wood of funeral piles, or only for ordinary domestic purposes, I have no means of determining.

The skeletons which have been found have not been deposited very deeply in the soil; indeed, some have lain so near the surface as hardly to have escaped the plough. From the varying character of the bones, skulls, and teeth, I conclude that they represent individuals of both sexes and adult and youthful persons; although I have not seen any remains which decidedly were those of children.

I have preserved eight of the skulls of these skeletons, and I exhibit two which are perfect, and which vary considerably in character; also a remarkable cranium, which presents peculiarities recalling the characteristics of the Neanderthal skull. The projecting frontal sinuses, the shallowness of the frontal region, and the prominence of the occipital protuberance, indicate that this skull was that of a low order of man, and not such an one as we could have supposed ever to have contained the brain of a noble Roman. Two minute perforations on either side of the sagittal suture, and which must have been present during life, are seen to go quite through the skull.

I also exhibit a lower jaw, remarkable for the beauty of the teeth, which are perfect as to condition, regularity, and number, even as to the wisdom teeth. The

jaw is evidently that of a mature but not aged person ; and, being slighter in structure than the jaws of other skulls, it probably was that of a woman.

Mr. Wright, in his work "The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon," states "that both modes of burial were used indiscriminately in Roman Britain," "at the will of the individual or of the family of the deceased." I would suggest (or rather put the query) whether it is not possible that the mode of interment is indicative of the religion of the deceased ? Whether burial by cremation may not have been the mode adopted by the Roman pagan, and the burial of the entire body that adopted by the Roman Christian ?

Of the coins which have been discovered, those of about the time of Septimius Severus are the earliest that are in perfect condition, and I conclude from this circumstance that this spot was first occupied by the Romans a little earlier than the reign of that emperor, and, from the fact that coins of various emperors down to Honorius occur also in good condition, I deem it pretty certain that it continued to be so occupied until the Romans abandoned Britain.

Among the coins from this site which have come into my hands is a small-brass coin of Cunobeline, of the type figured by Mr. Evans in his great work upon Ancient British Coins, pl. xi., No. 5, the only other recorded example of which, I believe, is in the Bodleian Library. This chieftain was contemporary with the predecessors of Claudius, and doubtless this coin had accidentally obtained currency with Roman money, and carries, therefore, no significance as evidence of historical date.

Indications of the presence at this spot of the unhappy British people who remained after the close of the Roman domination, will be recognised, I think, in the curious facts the brief relation of which will conclude my paper.

I have alluded to my dis-interment, in 1862, of a refuse-heap at Dallington, which afforded evidence of the manufacture, at that spot, of a very low class of pottery. My friend Sir Henry Dryden, Hon. F.S.A. of Edinburgh, suggested at the time that, although this manufacture had certainly been carried on during the Roman period, these vessels were really of Romano-British fabrication. Some time afterwards I found in a refuse-heap, exposed by some excavations on the site of the Norman Castle of Northampton, fragments of precisely similar pottery, mixed with other fragments, some probably Saxon, and some certainly Norman.

This circumstance led me to suppose it probable that this humble manufacture, first carried on by British or Romano-British hands, may have been continued, with the same materials, the same make, the same patterns, and perhaps by the

descendants of the old, the aboriginal, workmen, all through the Saxon, into the Norman age.

Now, among the fragments found at Duston is a certain proportion of this pottery, and it is a question whether such pottery would be likely to be used in the ceremonies attending the burial of the Roman dead.

Further, there have been found at Duston—at a spot strewn with ashes, fragments of this rude pottery, with calcined stones and lumps of manipulated clay—evidence that here, as at Dallington, such pottery may have been manufactured.

Besides pottery such as I have described, examples of that small rude brass money called by numismatists *minimi*, and held by them to have been fabricated by the Romano-British people, in imitation of Roman money, have not unfrequently been found at Duston, affording evidence, not strong, but corroborative, of its post-Roman occupation.

But still stronger, and, as I think, conclusive, evidence can be adduced in support of the supposition that this spot was still occupied and held in regard by the inhabitants of the locality who remained after the ostensible departure of the Romans.

On one occasion of my visiting the quarry, I found that there had been recently exposed three grave-like excavations in the ironstone rock. They had been arranged upon a semi-radial plain, but two had been partially demolished when I first saw them. The third, however, was intact. All had been filled with soil from above, but, upon this being cleared, the natural floor was found, strewn with ashes; among which were burnt stones, fragments of what I will provisionally call the Romano-British pottery, and a cluster of the imitative coins called *minimi*. The perfect examples of these passed into other and less appreciative hands than my own, but I obtained a few fragments, which, worthless in themselves, have yet a value in the evidence they offer as to a peculiar and interesting fact. The woodcut on the next page is intended rather as a diagram to show the nature of this discovery and the relative position of the interments in the superficial bed to the excavations in the rock, than as an accurate representation of the objects discovered.

Upon close examination of the central cavity, I discovered on the right-hand side, upon the natural rock, what I take to have been a record, although now undecipherable—certain rude, but unmistakeably intentional, horizontal incisions, which may have been intended to mark the spot where the ashes of the dead had been deposited, the pious act, probably, of surviving relatives.

DISCOVERIES AT DUSTON.

With some trouble I succeeded in detaching this inscribed portion of stone, and I invite to it the examination and speculation of many present who are more capable of forming an opinion upon it than myself.

With a full consciousness that such a conclusion may be visionary, I have been struck with the idea that in these petty *quasi*-cromlechs we have the trace of a tendency upon the part of the inhabitants of this country to relapse into aboriginal barbarism, during the short but lamentable interval between the departure of Roman and the advent of Saxon civilization.

In the subjoined Appendix will be found a detailed description of the objects I have collected from Duston.

APPENDIX.

List of Roman Remains found at Duston, near Northampton.

SAMIAN WARE.

1. Large piece of a bowl richly ornamented in relief—suggested design, central figure of Venus rising from the sea, kneeling towards her on either side are male and female genii offering gifts; above, facing her right and left, are dolphins. These figures are divided into compartments by a kind of corded division, with rosettes at the top and bottom and at the points of intersection. The design is bound by obese nude male figures holding a vase in the left hand and a cestus on the head with the right.
 - 1 *a.* Small pieces of two other vessels.
 - 1 *b.* A *patera*, stamped X VNIX X. I think the first and last X are merely ornamental.
 - 1 *c.* Fragments of two shallow vessels—on one the potter's name is SATVRNN, on the other it begins with V and ends with LI, the remaining letters being illegible.
 - 1 *d.* Bottoms of four vessels: stamps, F · EII · IL · ISE · MACIONI · NAMILIANI · OF NATORI.
 - 1 *e.* Shallow vessel with projecting rim: it evidently had an inclosing lid.

CASTOR or DUROBRIVIAN WARE.

2. Fragment of a vessel in imitation of Samian.
3. Fragment of a rather large vessel in black ware. The upper part is polished, but the lower part is dead black, and cross-lined in a diamond pattern.
4. Fragments of shallow vessels, two with and one without marginal lip, and the bottom of a vessel of different form, all of a dark grey ware.
5. A rather shallow vessel, widely spread, at the top 6 inches, tapering to 2½ inches at the bottom, and 3 inches high, surface-coloured chocolate.
 - 5 *a.* Fragment of another, also surface-coloured, but from which the colour has flaked off. This vessel is of exactly the same form as the last-mentioned Samian vessel, and may have been an imitation.
 - 5 *b.* A lid and two bottoms of vessels of very similar colouring. A small portion of the surface of one of the latter shows an elegant ornamentation, frequently found on Castor vessels of the form which this once had.
 - 5 *c.* The neck of a two-handled vessel of somewhat darker colour.
6. Fragment of a vessel of the same form as the Samian vessel 1 *e*—of a dark chocolate colour, peculiarly surface-glazed, and ornamented by a kind of scroll-pattern in orange slip.
7. Fragments of vessels of a mottled red and grey colour. [Fragments of vessels of similar ware, probably also from Castor, are not unfrequent at Silchester.]
8. A fractured vessel of the same ware, having a peculiar scroll-pattern in relief—4 inches high, 3 inches in diameter, and having a narrow foot.

9. Portion of a vessel in red ware, having a pattern of white dots in slip, arranged in diamond form. [Among the fragments found by me, as I have stated, at Dallington, were those of a vessel in black ware having the same pattern; and last spring I was shown by the Rev. J. G. Joyce, F.S.A., of Stratfieldsaye, a vessel of red ware, found at Silchester, having a similar ornamentation in its own material.]
10. A perfect vessel of mottled red ware, ornamented with short vertical incised lines arranged in oblique rows. It is $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches high, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide, and stands on a narrow foot.
11. A fractured vessel of black-surfaced ware, having a wide mouth and broad base (5 inches high by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide), with two rows of indented ornamentation, worked apparently with a tool made for the purpose.
12. A vessel of a dull grey or black colour, with horizontal lines for ornament, and having a wide-spreading lip— $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide at top.
13. Another, of a smaller size, not so spreading in the mouth, without ornament, and more grey in colour.
[With this vessel were found eight draught-shaped turned objects in bone. See No. 31.]
14. Large cinerary urn, with very wide mouth, $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide: it has lost its foot, but it probably was not more than 7 inches high. It is ornamented by horizontal lines.
[This and vessels Nos. 12 and 13, from their tone of colouring, were probably baked in a "smother-kiln."]
15. Two fragments—one of a shallow dish without marginal lip, and the other of a large vessel with broad lip, both of the same kind of pale grey and rather hard ware.
16. A vessel of the common Castor black ware, on a narrow foot, and having the sides fashioned into the characteristic ridge and furrow form by the pressure of the thumb before the clay had hardened— $7\frac{5}{8}$ inches high by 5 inches wide.
17. A vessel of similar colour and form, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches high by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide.
18. A vessel of the same form in red ware, 5 inches high by 4 inches wide, quite perfect.
19. Fragment of a vessel of the same form in black ware, with a vertical scroll ornament on the prominent ridges.
20. Fragment of a vessel of the same form in mottled ware, having a peculiar lustre on the external surface, and an ornamentation like the scales of armour on the vertical ridges.
21. Fragments of vessels of inferior ware with rude ornamentation.
22. The top of a rather large jug-shaped one-handled vessel, cream-coloured, probably of Castor manufacture, but perhaps Salopian. A spout was made to this vessel by nipping together two sides of the rim while the clay was still soft, and folding over a flap formed by drawing out the clay of one side with the wet thumb and finger.
23. A small pot of coarse ware, partly inclosed in an outer coating of clay. I think it possible that this little vessel may have been used as a crucible, and that it may have belonged to a period succeeding that of the Roman occupation. Indications of a glaze, perhaps produced by exposure to a great heat, are to be detected on the face of the outer coating.
- 23*. A small rude shallow pot, probably used for salt, ointment, or pigments. I have seen such little pots, found near Castor, which have been made by rubbing down the bottoms of broken vessels; and Mr. Joyce has a similar pot so adapted found at Silchester.

LINCOLN WARE.

24. A very beautiful bottle or *ampulla*, quite perfect. It is of grey ware, with an ornamental band round the shoulder—8 inches high and 6 inches wide. This was found with several other perfect vessels in one of the dish-shaped depressions. [Mr. A. W. Franks has informed me that vessels of a similar ware have been found in a pottery oven at Lincoln.]

UPCHURCH WARE?^a

25. Fragment of a vessel in grey material, with a diamond-shaped ornamentation of crossed lines. This pattern is figured by Mr. Wright in his illustration of Upchurch ware in his work which I have already referred to. I have several examples of pottery of the same pattern found in the Castor locality; but I do not accept this as conclusive evidence that they are of the Castor manufacture.

SALOPIAN WARE?

26. Tops of a one-handled and a two-handled vessel, and the bottom of another vessel of a soft cream-coloured ware.
 27. The bottom of a vessel of a soft salmon-coloured ware.
 28, 29. Fragments of *mortaria*, one in cream-coloured the other in salmon-coloured ware.
 30. A muller or rubbing-stone to work in the *mortaria*.

This muller is of a coarse sandstone, having large silicious grains and termed by geologists millstone grit. This rock is a member of the carboniferous series of geological formations, and does not occur within a considerable distance of Northampton.

The inside of each *mortarium* is studded with silicious grains (probably picked from the same gritstone), in order to give it a tritulating surface, and at the same time to protect the softer material from the effect of friction.

[I have two nether millstones (also found at Duston) made from a coarser bed of the same millstone grit. These measure, one 18 inches, and the other 15 inches in diameter, with a thickness of 3 inches in the centre, diminishing to 2 inches at the periphery.]

OBJECTS IN BONE AND STAG'S HORN.

31. Eight pieces of turned bone, like modern draughtsmen, of graduated sizes. These were found in juxta-position (probably accidental) with the small earthen vessel No. 13. One precisely similar object was found at Silchester some time ago, and is now deposited in the library at Stratfieldsaye. They were probably used in some game.
 32. A peculiar small knife-shaped instrument of bone, of unknown use. [It has been suggested that this may simply be a small bone in its natural form.]
 33. A tyne of stag's horn, cut square at the base. It shows marks of friction, as if string had been drawn round it, say for the purpose of tightening a knot. A similar instrument has been found at Silchester, having such marks more plainly shown. I would suggest that this instrument might have been used for making nets.

^a I have described the following articles as of Upchurch and Salopian ware, upon probability only.

OBJECTS IN IRON.

- 34, 35. A pair of rude tongs and a hook-shaped knife.
36. A fragment of a sickle.
37. A key of a form figured by Mr. Wright.^a (Obtained from Mr. Fletcher of Northampton.)
38. A writing style.
39. Eighteen nails of different forms, nine with long heads, and nine with round heads.
One of the latter has wood still attached to it.

OBJECTS IN BRONZE.

40. A writing style.
- 40*. A large pin, with rounded head.
41. A ligula? This instrument is supposed by Mr. Wright to have been used for taking ointment out of long-necked bottles.
42. A spoon, with round bowl and pointed shank.
43. A spoon, with curved shank, the shank twisted and broken, the bowl broken and bent over.
44. A spoon-bowl, with very short curved shank, very thick, as if cast.
45. A plain ring, use unknown; round flat ring, with two projecting studs, use unknown.
46. An ornamental knob; a fragment with three teeth, use unknown.
47. A buckle or fibula, of the ancient Irish pattern. A similar one found at Silchester.
48. An armlet, with open pointed ends.
49. A very elegant and quite perfect armlet of plaited wire, having a looped joint.
50. A bronze bust, five inches high, well patinated. I suppose this to be a bust of Lucius Verus. The face is like that on some of that Emperor's coins. Mr. Akerman, in his *Numismatic Manual*, says, "He (Lucius Verus) and his father, Lucius Aelius, appear to have worn wigs, and to have been very vain of them," and the wiglike appearance of the hair of this bust would tend to support my identification. From the appearance of the back of this figure I am disposed to think that it has formed one handle of a large bronze vessel; no other parts of such supposed vessel have however been found.

UTENSILS IN LEAD OR MIXED METAL.

51. A platter or *patera*, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter.

I exhibit the drawing of a vessel in the like metal, found at Duston, but not in my possession, The vessel has been much crushed: the drawing represents it restored.^b

COINS.

Coins ranging from Claudius to Honorius have been found. I described these coins in detail in a paper read before the Numismatic Society in March 1868. Since that time the only coins which I have acquired worthy of notice are a large-brass of Commodus, reverse, Rome seated on arms, and a small-brass of Theodora, second wife of Constantius Chlorus.

^a *The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon*, p. 340.

^b This vessel was of the same type as the cup with octagonal brim figured in *Archæologia*, xvi. 137, and exhibited (for the second time) before the Society of Antiquaries on May 19th, 1870. Pewter vessels of the same type from the Fens of Cambridgeshire were also exhibited on Jan. 13th in the same year.

Since the foregoing account was written, the following among other Roman objects have been turned up at Duston :—

- A. A terra-cotta muller or pestle, for use in a *mortarium*. This has a curved form, and has very much of the character of a Roman "hand-brick," such as those the use of which was evidently to prop vessels while being burnt in the kiln. The section of this muller would present a nearly circular figure: it is two inches in thickness at the larger end, and an inch and a half at the smaller end. It measures $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches along the outer curve and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches along the inner curve. The face of the larger end has been exposed to friction and has been rubbed down almost to a polish.
- B. A fragment of a large highly-decorated bowl in Samian ware (originally more than 10 inches in diameter) exhibiting in panels marine subjects, &c. Most of the surface of this fragment has been blackened by the action of fire. It may be that this bowl had been filled with wine or food and thrown upon a funeral pyre.
- C. A fragment of a more than usually ornamental vessel in Castor ware. This vessel was $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter at its thickest part—rather more than half-way down— $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter at the mouth, and probably about the same diameter at the bottom. It was of a pale chocolate colour, with a slight gloss on the exterior surface, and was ornamented on the upper part by horizontal bands and on the lower by a bold and graceful scroll with tendrils and ivy-like leaves.
- D. An iron knife, having a blade 5 inches long, one inch and a half wide next the handle, and running up to a sharp point at the top. The back is almost straight, rather thick, and is carried down two inches and seven-eighths to form the handle, which terminates in a knob; the whole length being seven inches and seven-eighths.
- E. A quantity of *terra-cotta* moulds for casting coins. One mould is perfect, and several are nearly so; the remainder are in fragments, and in quantity nearly sufficient to fill a pint measure. They are for coins of the reign of Diocletian, Maximianus Herculus, and Constantius Chlorus, and the reverses presented are the common ones of "GENIO POPVLI ROMANI" and "MONETA S. AVG. ET CAES NN." Some of the reverses have the exergual inscriptions of the Trier or Treves mint—"PTR" and "STR."

Such coin-moulds have been found in France, notably at Lyons, and in this country, at Edington, Somersetshire (see Gough's Camden, i. 71), at Lingwell Gate near Wakefield, at Castor, and I believe near Lincoln. (See Akerman, *Coins of the Romans relating to Britain*.)

It would seem that such moulds as have hitherto been discovered have been for *denarii* or "small brass," and for coins almost entirely of the Roman emperors from Septimius Severus to Maximinus inclusive. The moulds found at Duston are for the large flat coins called the "*folles*," introduced under Diocletian, and the fact that no moulds had previously been found either for coins of this character or of these emperors, invests the Duston "find" with particular interest.

With the moulds were found fragments of a crucible partially vitrified by heat, a conical piece of metal like the top of a core from casting figured by Mr. Akerman, and which had occupied the funnel-shaped mouth of the stack of moulds, and two portions of coins consisting of metal which had imperfectly run into the moulds.

This group was found in a well or cesspool (such as those before described) at some feet from the bottom; so that it had been used as a receptacle for refuse for some time before the moulds, &c. were thrown in. This hiding away, added to the presence of the Treves mint-marks, and the fact that the moulds themselves had evidently been produced by pressure from real coins, would tend to confirm the supposition that these moulds were used by forgers.

The fragmentary condition of the mass I attribute simply to the operation of extracting the cast coins. The one only perfect mould is impressed on one side only, and formed the bottom of a pile: unlike all the others it is not discoloured by the hot metal, which must have failed to penetrate to it.

S. S. (December 1870.)